

transmitting a signal corresponding to the acoustic model to a respective summation point for subtraction from the detect total signal before the respective frequency shifting.

11. (New) The method according to claim 10, wherein a passenger compartment of the motor vehicle is divided into at least two acoustic subspaces, each of the acoustic subspaces including at least one microphone location and at least one loudspeaker location;

and wherein the frequency shift is performed between the microphone location of one of the subspaces and the loudspeaker location of another one of the subspaces;

and wherein each acoustic model is defined between the microphone location and the loudspeaker location of the respective acoustic subspace to thereby form a signal-based, closed loop electroacoustical control circuit.

12. (New) The method according to claim 11, wherein each acoustic model is defined in accordance with voice and noise signals detected in the respective acoustic subspace and additional noise signals detected in the entire passenger compartment so that after the signal corresponding to the acoustic model is subtracted from the total signal substantially only the voice signal remains.

13. (New) A device for operating a voice-controlled system in a motor vehicle, the motor vehicle including a passenger compartment divided into at least two subsections, each subsection including at least one microphone and at least one loudspeaker, the device comprising:

a transmitter for transmitting at least one of voice messages and voice commands;

a frequency-shifting device connected between the microphones of one of the subsections and the loudspeakers of another one of the subsections; and

a summation point corresponding to each subsection, the summation point subtractively superimposing a parallelly tapped loudspeaker signal and the microphone signal of the respective subsection.

14. (New) The device according to claim 13, wherein the voice-controlled system includes at least one of a communication device and a two-way intercom device.

15. (New) The device according to claim 13, wherein the subsections are open subsections.

16. (New) The device according to claim 13, further comprising an acoustic model generator provided between each parallel tapped loudspeaker signal and the respective summation point, the acoustic models generated at least one of controlling and postprocessing the respective loudspeaker signal, a resulting signal from each acoustic model generator being transmitted to the respective summation point.

17. (New) The device according to claim 16, wherein the acoustic model generators include sound pattern detectors for separating engine and driving noises from speech-generated acoustical signals and for separating speech-generated signals from fed-back echo signals.

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment cancels, without prejudice, original claims 1 - 9 and substitute claims 1 - 7 in the underlying PCT Application No. PCT/EP99/03031. This Preliminary Amendment adds new claims 8 - 17. The new claims, inter alia, conform the claims to U.S. Patent and Trademark Office rules and do not add any new matter to the application.

The above amendments to the specification conform the same to U.S. Patent and Trademark Office rules and do not introduce any new matter into the application.

The underlying PCT Application No. PCT/EP99/03031 includes an International Search Report, dated September 20, 1999, a copy of which is included. The Search Report includes a list of documents that were considered by the Examiner in the underlying PCT application.